BROWNING®

The Best There Is

X-BOLT™

BOLT-ACTION RIFLE OWNER'S MANUAL

Important operating instructions for:

BROWNING® X-BOLT™ BOLT-ACTION RIFLE

If you have any questions or comments regarding your new firearm, please contact us.

Browning Consumer Information
One Browning Place
Morgan, UT 84050-9326
Phone: (801) 876-2711
browning.com

Please use the space below to record information about your new firearm.

Model _____

Serial Number _____

Purchased From _____

Date of Purchase _____

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING A BROWNING X-BOLT RIFLE

Congratulations on your choice of a Browning X-Bolt rifle. The Browning X-Bolt is one of the most accurate, sophisticated and finest constructed bolt-action rifles available today. The Browning X-Bolt represents a new generation of Browning bolt-action rifles, designed with improved features for superior performance.

With a reasonable amount of care, your X-Bolt rifle should give you many years of dependable, enjoyable service.

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YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR FIREARM SAFETY

⚠WARNING

FAILURE TO HEED ANY OF THE FOLLOWING WARNINGS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

As a gun owner, you accept a set of demanding responsibilities. How seriously you take these responsibilities can be the difference between life and death.

There is no excuse for careless or abusive handling of any firearm. At all times handle this firearm, and all other firearms, with intense respect for their power and potential danger.

Please read and understand all of the cautions, warnings, notices, proper handling procedures and instructions outlined in this owner's manual before using your new firearm.

1 **ALWAYS KEEP THE MUZZLE OF YOUR FIREARM POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE CERTAIN IT IS UNLOADED.**
Never point any firearm at anything you do not intend to shoot. Be extremely alert and aware of all persons and property within the range of your ammunition.

2 **NEVER RELY TOTALLY ON YOUR FIREARM'S MECHANICAL "SAFETY" DEVICE. LIKE ANY MECHANICAL DEVICE, A "SAFETY" CAN SOMETIMES FAIL; IT CAN BE JARRED OR INADVERTENTLY MANIPULATED INTO AN UNSAFE CONDITION.**
The word "safety" describes a firearm's trigger block mechanism, sear block mechanism, hammer block mechanism or firing pin block mechanism. Mechanical "safeties" are designed to place your firearm in a safer status, and no guarantee can be made that the firearm will not fire even if the "safety" is in the on safe position. Mechanical "safeties" merely aid safe gun handling and are no excuse for pointing your firearm's muzzle in an unsafe direction. See "Operation of the Safety" on page 10 for instructions on the operation of this firearm's "safety."

Remember, safe gun handling does not stop with your firearm's mechanical "safety" devices, it starts there. Always treat this firearm with the respect due a loaded, ready-to-fire firearm.

Some firearms do not have a mechanical safety. Many target firearms, lever-action firearms and pistols do not have manual "safety" mechanisms. Therefore it is critical to read and understand the owner's manual for every firearm which explains the safe operation of the firearm.

While it is a good idea to "test" your firearm's mechanical "safety" periodically for proper function, never test the "safety" while your firearm is loaded or pointed in an unsafe direction.

3 WHENEVER YOU HANDLE ANY FIREARM, OR HAND IT TO SOMEONE, ALWAYS OPEN THE ACTION IMMEDIATELY AND VISUALLY CHECK THE FIREARM'S CHAMBER TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT THE FIREARM IS COMPLETELY UNLOADED.

Make certain the firearm does not inadvertently contain any ammunition. Always keep the chamber empty and the "safety" in the on safe position unless shooting is imminent.

4 ALWAYS WEAR EAR AND EYE PROTECTION WHEN SHOOTING.

Unprotected, repeated exposure to gunfire can cause hearing damage. Wear hearing protection (shooting ear plugs or muffs) to guard against such damage.

Wear shooting glasses to protect your eyes from flying particles. Allow proper distance (eye relief) between a scope and your eye when firing a scoped pistol, rifle or shotgun. Do not use unorthodox shooting methods that could cause the rearward travel of the slide or bolt of a firearm to contact your eyes, face or hands. Always keep a safe distance between the muzzle of your firearm and any persons nearby, as muzzle blast, debris and ejecting cartridges could inflict serious injury.

Always wear eye protection when disassembling and cleaning any firearm to prevent the possibility of springs, spring-tensioned parts, solvents or other agents from contacting your eyes.

5 KEEP ALL FIREARMS UNLOADED DURING TRANSPORT, EVEN WHEN STORED IN A HOLSTER, GUN CASE, SCABBARD OR OTHER CONTAINER.

6 DROPPING OR JARRING A LOADED FIREARM CAN CAUSE ACCIDENTAL DISCHARGE.

This can occur even with the "safety" in the on safe position. Be extremely careful while hunting or during any shooting activity to avoid dropping any firearm.

7 HUNTING FROM ELEVATED SURFACES SUCH AS TREESTANDS IS DANGEROUS.

Doing so may increase the risk of mishandling a firearm. The following rules should always be observed by you and those you hunt with: Always make certain that the stand being used is safe and stable. Always make certain that your firearm is unloaded when it is being taken up and down from the stand. Always make certain that your firearm is not dropped from the stand, or dropped while it is being taken up or down from the stand. Remember, a loaded firearm may discharge when dropped, even with the "safety" in the on safe position.

8 STORE YOUR FIREARM AND AMMUNITION SEPARATELY, WELL BEYOND THE REACH OF CHILDREN.

Take prudent safeguards to ensure your firearm does not become available to untrained, inexperienced or unwelcome hands. Store all firearms in secure, locked cases or a gun safe. Keep your firearm unloaded when not in use.

9 BEWARE OF BARREL OBSTRUCTIONS.

Mud, snow and an infinite variety of other objects may inadvertently lodge in a barrel bore. It only takes a small obstruction to cause

dangerously increased pressures that can damage your firearm and cause serious injury to yourself and others.

BEFORE CHECKING FOR A BARREL OBSTRUCTION, BE CERTAIN YOUR FIREARM IS COMPLETELY UNLOADED, THERE IS NOT A LIVE CARTRIDGE IN THE CHAMBER AND THE "SAFETY" IS IN THE ON SAFE POSITION.

After assuring yourself that the firearm is completely unloaded, open the breech or action and look through the barrel to be sure it is clear of obstructions. If an obstruction is seen, no matter how small it may be, clean the bore with a cleaning rod and patch as described on page 24 of this owner's manual.

10 **BE ALERT TO THE SIGNS OF AMMUNITION MALFUNCTION. IF YOU DETECT AN OFF SOUND OR LIGHT RECOIL WHEN A CARTRIDGE IS FIRED, DO NOT LOAD ANOTHER CARTRIDGE INTO THE CHAMBER.**
If your firearm fails to fire, keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction for a minimum of 30 seconds. Carefully open the action and remove the cartridge from the chamber. If the primer is indented, the defective cartridge should be disposed of in a way that cannot cause harm. If the primer is not indented, your firearm should be examined by a qualified gunsmith and the cause of the malfunction corrected before further use. Glance down the barrel to make sure that no obstructions remain in the barrel. Completely clear the barrel before loading and firing again. Failure to follow these instructions can cause extensive damage to your firearm and possible serious injury to yourself and others.

11 **NEVER INSERT A CARTRIDGE OF THE INCORRECT CALIBER INTO ANY FIREARM.**
The caliber of your firearm is marked on the barrel. Store all cartridges of different calibers in completely separate and well-marked containers. Never store cartridges of mixed calibers in a common container or in your pockets. See page 14 for more information on the correct ammunition for your firearm.

12 EXAMINE EVERY CARTRIDGE YOU PUT IN YOUR FIREARM.

We cannot assume any responsibility for the use of unsafe or improper firearm and ammunition combinations or damage or injury caused by damaged ammunition. It is your responsibility to read and heed all warnings in this owner's manual and on ammunition boxes. See page 14 for more information on the correct ammunition for your firearm.

13 USE ONLY SAAMI APPROVED AMMUNITION.

The barrel and action of this firearm have been made with substantial safety margins beyond the pressures developed by established American commercial loads. Nevertheless, we can assume no liability for incidents which occur through the use of cartridges of nonstandard dimensions or which develop pressures in excess of commercially available ammunition which has been loaded in accordance with standards established by the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute (SAAMI).

14 MAKE SURE OF ADEQUATE VENTILATION IN THE AREA THAT YOU DISCHARGE A FIREARM. LEAD EXPOSURE CAN OCCUR FROM DISCHARGING FIREARMS IN POORLY VENTILATED AREAS, CLEANING FIREARMS OR HANDLING AMMUNITION.

Lead is a substance that has been known to cause birth defects, reproductive harm and other serious injury. Wash hands thoroughly after exposure to ammunition or after cleaning a firearm.

15 DO NOT SNAP THE FIRING PIN ON AN EMPTY CHAMBER, THE CHAMBER MAY NOT BE EMPTY!

Treat every firearm with the respect due a loaded firearm, even though you are certain the firearm is unloaded.

16 KEEP YOUR FINGERS AWAY FROM THE TRIGGER WHILE LOADING AND UNLOADING UNTIL SHOOTING IS IMMINENT.

17 BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET AND BACKSTOP, PARTICULARLY DURING LOW LIGHT PERIODS.

Know the range of your ammunition. Never shoot at water or hard objects.

18 ALWAYS UNLOAD YOUR FIREARM'S CHAMBER BEFORE CROSSING A FENCE, CLIMBING A TREE, JUMPING A DITCH OR NEGOTIATING OTHER OBSTACLES.

Never place your firearm on or against a fence, tree, car or other similar object.

19 BE DEFENSIVE AND ON GUARD AGAINST UNSAFE GUN HANDLING AROUND YOU AND OTHERS.

Don't be timid when it comes to firearm safety. If you observe other shooters violating any of these safety precautions, politely suggest safer handling practices.

20 BE CERTAIN YOUR FIREARM IS UNLOADED BEFORE CLEANING.

Because so many firearm accidents occur when a firearm is being cleaned, special and extreme care should be taken to be sure your firearm is unloaded before disassembly, cleaning and reassembly. Keep ammunition away from the cleaning location. Never test the mechanical function of any firearm with live ammunition.

21 TEACH AND SUPERVISE FIREARMS SAFETY TO ALL MEMBERS OF YOUR FAMILY, ESPECIALLY TO CHILDREN AND NON-SHOOTERS.

Closely supervise newcomers to the shooting sports. Encourage enrollment in hunting and shooting safety courses.

22 NEVER DRINK ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES OR TAKE ANY TYPE OF DRUGS BEFORE OR DURING SHOOTING.

Your vision, motor skills and judgment could be dangerously impaired, making your gun handling unsafe to you and to others.

23 READ AND HEED ALL WARNINGS IN THIS OWNER'S MANUAL, ON AMMUNITION BOXES AND WITH ALL ACCESSORIES THAT YOU INSTALL ON YOUR FIREARM.

It is your responsibility to secure the most up-to-date information on the safe handling procedures of your Browning firearm. We assume no liability for incidents which occur when unsafe or improper firearm accessories or ammunition combinations are used.

24 PRACTICE PERIODIC MAINTENANCE, AVOID UNAUTHORIZED SERVICING.

Your firearm is a mechanical device which will not last forever, and as such, is subject to wear and requires periodic inspection, adjustment and service. Browning firearms should be serviced by a Browning Recommended Service Facility or by our Service Facility in Arnold, Missouri. We cannot assume any responsibility for injuries suffered or caused by unauthorized servicing, alterations or modifications of Browning firearms.

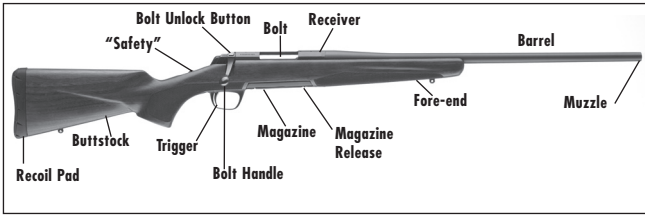
25 WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE SERVICE ON FIREARMS THAT HAVE BEEN ALTERED, ADDED TO OR SUBSTANTIALLY CHANGED.

Removal of metal from the barrel, or modifications of the firing mechanism and/or operating parts, may lead to a refusal of service on such firearms. We will charge you for parts and labor to return the firearm to original specifications.

DO NOT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, ALTER THE TRIGGER, SAFETY OR OTHER PARTS OF THE FIRING MECHANISM OF THIS OR ANY OTHER FIREARM. FAILURE TO OBEY THIS WARNING MAY RESULT IN INJURY OR DEATH TO YOURSELF OR OTHERS.

BE CAREFUL!

FIGURE 1



GENERAL DESCRIPTION AND OPERATION

The Browning X-Bolt is a bolt-action rifle that operates by lifting the bolt handle, drawing the bolt rearward and then sliding the bolt forward and rotating the bolt downward until it stops. This process takes a cartridge from the magazine and loads it into the chamber for firing.

The X-Bolt's short, 60° bolt lift lets you cycle the action rapidly for quick follow-up shots. Because the bolt does not swing up as high as other bolt-action rifles when open, there is ample scope clearance. The X-Bolt has a strong three-lug bolt. Weight is reduced while maintaining the strength necessary to handle magnum calibers.

Other significant features include a convenient detachable box magazine, thumb-operated top-tang "safety" and bolt unlock button. A new receiver is designed to place the scope closer to the centerline of the bore and uses four screws per base to mount a scope.

NOMENCLATURE

In conventional firearm terminology the position and movement of firearm parts are described as they occur with the firearm horizontal and in the normal firing position: i.e., the muzzle is forward or in front; the buttstock is rearward or to the rear; the trigger is downward or underneath; the scope is upward or on top. For general parts nomenclature, refer to Figure 1.

FIGURE 2

"Safety" shown in the on safe position.

FIGURE 3

"Safety" shown in the off safe position.

SERIAL NUMBER

The serial number of your firearm can be found on the right side of the receiver, in front of the bolt handle.

OPERATION OF THE "SAFETY"

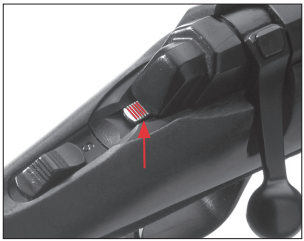
⚠WARNING

ALWAYS KEEP THE "SAFETY" IN THE ON SAFE POSITION UNLESS SHOOTING IS IMMINENT. ALWAYS KEEP THE MUZZLE POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

The "safety" is located on the top tang at the rear of the receiver. When the "safety" is drawn to the rear, the firearm is in the on safe position (Figure 2). This blocks the trigger and locks the bolt in the closed position. In this position an "S" will appear on the tang in front of the "safety."

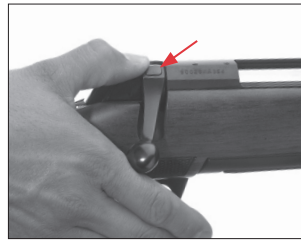
When the "safety" is pushed forward, the "S" will be covered and a red dot will appear indicating that the rifle is in the "off safe" position and ready to fire (Figure 3).

FIGURE 4



Location of the cocking indicator, shown in the cocked position.

FIGURE 5



Location of the bolt unlock button.

⚠WARNING

DO NOT DEPEND ON THE RED COLOR ALONE TO INDICATE YOUR FIREARM'S SAFETY STATUS. TIME, EXPOSURE TO THE ELEMENTS, AND THE ABRASIVE ACTION OF CLEANING AGENTS CAN ERASE IT. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THIS WARNING COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

COCKING INDICATOR

Below the bolt shroud and ahead of the "safety" is a serrated cocking indicator. The indicator is painted red. When the rifle is cocked it may be readily felt with the thumb as well as easily seen with a quick glance downward (Figure 4). When the rifle is fired, the cocking indicator retracts into the bolt shroud and cannot be seen or felt.

⚠WARNING

DO NOT DEPEND ON THE RED COLOR ALONE TO INDICATE YOUR FIREARM'S SAFETY STATUS. TIME, EXPOSURE TO THE ELEMENTS, AND THE ABRASIVE ACTION OF CLEANING AGENTS CAN ERASE IT. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THIS WARNING COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

BOLT UNLOCK BUTTON

The bolt unlock button on the X-Bolt rifle is located on the upper part of the bolt handle (Figure 5). The bolt unlock button works in

conjunction with the top-tang "safety" and allows the bolt to be operated to unload a cartridge from the chamber with the "safety" in the on safe position. To unload the chamber with the "safety" in the on safe position, simply press the bolt unlock button down and rotate the bolt upward, then draw it completely rearward.

INITIAL CLEANING

NOTICE! PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION BEFORE CLEANING YOUR FIREARM.

CLEANING PARTS WITH SPECIAL FINISHES

Be especially careful when cleaning guns with camouflage, Dura-Touch® Armor Coating and other special finishes. Always prevent these surfaces from coming in contact with cleaning solvents, barrel scrubbers and other strong chemicals. It is preferable to clean these surfaces with a light gun oil containing no solvents, or with a damp cloth and mild dish soap (be sure to keep water out of the action). When cleaning your firearm's bore and action, protect the external finishes from any contact with chemicals used. Also, avoid any contact between external finishes and other strong chemicals like those found in DEET-containing insect repellents, sunscreens, etc. Damage to camouflage, Dura-Touch and other finishes caused by chemicals is irreversible and not repairable.

CLEANING

Various exposed metal parts of your new firearm have been coated at the factory with a rust preventative compound. A fine, light gun oil is ideal for removing this compound and for giving your new firearm its first lubrication. Before shooting your firearm, clean the anti-rust compound from the inside of the barrel, receiver and the action/chamber areas. Clean the barrel using a cleaning rod and patch as explained under "Cleaning and Maintenance Suggestions" on page 23. If your X-Bolt rifle is to be stored, it is acceptable to leave the rust preventative compound on the rifle and keep it in its original packaging.

INSERTING AND REMOVING THE BOLT

⚠WARNING

ALWAYS KEEP THE MUZZLE POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION. BEFORE INSERTING OR REMOVING THE BOLT, VISUALLY INSPECT THE CHAMBER TO BE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THE FIREARM IS COMPLETELY UNLOADED. PLACE THE "SAFETY" IN THE ON SAFE POSITION. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THIS WARNING COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

INSERTING THE BOLT

The X-Bolt rifle comes packed in a foam-padded box with the bolt removed from the rifle. To install the bolt into the receiver perform the following procedure:

1 Place the "safety" in the off safe position.

2 Align the forward end of the bolt in the rear opening of the receiver.

3 Push the bolt completely forward and rotate the handle down to lock it. It is not necessary to depress the bolt stop to insert the bolt, but you may do so to ease the installation (Figure 6).

4 Immediately place the "safety" in the on safe position. The rifle is now completely assembled and may be operated normally.

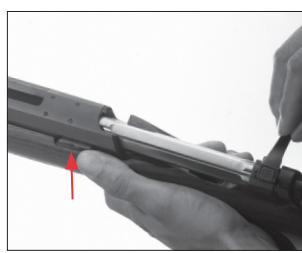
REMOVING THE BOLT

1 Place the "safety" in the on safe position.

2 Press the bolt unlock button and rotate the bolt handle upward.

3 The bolt stop is the horizontal bar on the left side of the receiver (Figure 6).

FIGURE 6



Press the bolt stop and pull the bolt rearward.

Press inward on the rear end of the bolt stop and carefully draw the bolt to the rear and out of the receiver.

NOTICE! **WHEN REMOVING THE BOLT FROM THE RECEIVER, TAKE CARE TO PREVENT THE COCKING INDICATOR FROM STRIKING AND DAMAGING THE COMB OF THE STOCK.**

AMMUNITION

⚠WARNING

DO NOT USE AMMUNITION OTHER THAN WHAT IS INSCRIBED ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE BARREL. EXAMINE EVERY CARTRIDGE YOU PUT IN YOUR FIREARM.

DISCHARGING FIREARMS IN POORLY VENTILATED AREAS, CLEANING FIREARMS OR HANDLING AMMUNITION MAY RESULT IN EXPOSURE TO LEAD AND OTHER SUBSTANCES KNOWN TO CAUSE BIRTH DEFECTS, REPRODUCTIVE HARM AND OTHER SERIOUS PHYSICAL INJURY. HAVE ADEQUATE VENTILATION AT ALL TIMES. WASH HANDS THOROUGHLY AFTER HANDLING AMMUNITION.

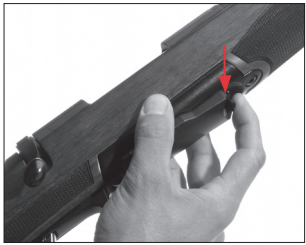
The barrel and action of this rifle have been made with substantial safety margins over the pressures developed by established American loads. However, we assume no responsibility for incidents which occur through the use of cartridges of nonstandard dimension or those developing pressures in excess of SAAMI (Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute) established standards.

MAGAZINE CAPACITY

The Browning X-Bolt utilizes a unique detachable rotary magazine. The magazine capacity of standard calibers is four rounds. On magnum calibers and WSM rifles the capacity is three rounds. Remember, "total" rifle capacity includes an additional round which can be loaded in the chamber in addition to a full magazine.

NOTICE! **DO NOT TAMPER WITH THE ASSEMBLY SCREW ON THE REAR OF THE MAGAZINE. DOING SO WILL RENDER THE MAGAZINE INOPERATIVE.**

FIGURE 7



Press the magazine release rearward. The magazine will fall into your hand.

FIGURE 8

Depress the follower with the rim of the cartridge and slide the cartridge rearward under the feed lips.

LOADING

⚠WARNING

WHEN LOADING YOUR RIFLE ALWAYS KEEP THE MUZZLE POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION, ALWAYS PLACE THE "SAFETY" IN THE ON SAFE POSITION AND KEEP YOUR FINGERS AWAY FROM THE TRIGGER. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

DO NOT CARRY YOUR RIFLE WITH A CARTRIDGE IN THE CHAMBER TO AVOID ACCIDENTAL DISCHARGE. WHEN FIRING IS NO LONGER IMMINENT, MAKE SURE THE "SAFETY" IS IN THE ON SAFE POSITION AND UNLOAD THE CHAMBER. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

There are two methods used to load a cartridge into the chamber of the X-Bolt rifle: loading through the ejection port and loading from the magazine.

LOADING THE MAGAZINE

1 Eject the magazine from the rifle by pulling the magazine release, located on the forward edge of the magazine, rearward with your index finger. The magazine will drop into your hand (Figure 7).

2 Place the rim of a cartridge on the front of the follower and press down on the follower with the rim of the cartridge while simultaneously sliding the cartridge rearward into the magazine under the feed lips (Figure 8). Load subsequent cartridges into the magazine in the same manner.

NOTICE! **THE BASE OF EACH CARTRIDGE MUST BE FLUSH WITH THE REAR OF THE MAGAZINE. IF THE NOSE OF A CARTRIDGE PROTRUDES BEYOND THE FRONT OF THE MAGAZINE, IT COULD CAUSE FEEDING PROBLEMS OR INTERFERE WHEN INSERTING THE MAGAZINE INTO THE RIFLE.**

LOADING THE CHAMBER FROM THE MAGAZINE

1 Close the bolt and place the "safety" in the on safe position.

2 Load the magazine as explained previously.

3 Insert the loaded magazine into the rifle by inserting it into the magazine well until it is retained in place by the magazine catch.

4 Load the chamber by pressing the bolt unlock button and simultaneously lifting the bolt handle completely up. Release the bolt unlock button and draw the bolt completely rearward, then push the bolt forward and rotate the bolt handle down.

5 Immediately verify that the "safety" is in the on safe position.

⚠WARNING

THE RIFLE IS NOW READY TO FIRE BY SIMPLY MOVING THE "SAFETY" TO THE OFF SAFE POSITION AND PULLING THE TRIGGER.

LOADING THE RIFLE TO FULL CAPACITY

1 Close the bolt and place the "safety" in the on safe position.

2 Load the magazine as explained previously.

3 Insert the loaded magazine into the rifle by inserting it into the magazine well until it is retained in place by the magazine catch.

4 Load the chamber by pressing the bolt unlock button and simultaneously lifting the bolt handle completely up. Release the bolt unlock button and draw the bolt completely rearward, then push the bolt forward and rotate the bolt handle down.

5 Immediately verify that the "safety" is in the on safe position.

⚠WARNING

THE RIFLE IS NOW READY TO FIRE BY SIMPLY MOVING THE "SAFETY" TO THE OFF SAFE POSITION AND PULLING THE TRIGGER.

6 Eject the magazine from the rifle by pulling the magazine release button rearward with your index finger. The magazine will drop into your hand.

7 Load a single cartridge into the magazine as explained previously.

8 Insert the fully-loaded magazine into the rifle.

SINGLE SHOT LOADING FROM THE MAGAZINE

If you wish to use your X-Bolt as a single-shot rifle, it is recommended that you use the following single-shot loading procedure.

1 Remove the magazine from the rifle as explained on page 15.

2 Pull the bolt completely rearward and inspect the chamber to make sure it is empty.

3 Close the bolt and place the "safety" in the on safe position.

4 Load a single cartridge into the magazine.

5 Insert the magazine into the rifle.

6 When ready to shoot, cycle the bolt fully to load the single cartridge from the magazine into the chamber.

7 Immediately verify that the "safety" is in the on safe position.

⚠WARNING

THE RIFLE IS NOW READY TO FIRE BY SIMPLY MOVING THE "SAFETY" TO THE OFF SAFE POSITION AND PULLING THE TRIGGER.

SINGLE SHOT LOADING DIRECTLY TO THE CHAMBER

You may also load your rifle by placing a cartridge directly into the chamber. To load the rifle in this manner, use the following loading procedure.

1 Insert an unloaded magazine into the rifle.

2 Pull the bolt rearward and inspect the chamber to make sure it is empty.

3 Insert a single cartridge through the ejection port and place it on top of the magazine.

4 When ready to shoot, push the bolt completely forward and rotate the bolt handle down to load the single cartridge into the chamber.

5 Immediately verify that the "safety" is in the on safe position.

⚠WARNING

THE RIFLE IS NOW READY TO FIRE BY SIMPLY MOVING THE "SAFETY" TO THE OFF SAFE POSITION AND PULLING THE TRIGGER.

FIRING

⚠WARNING

NEVER CHAMBER A CARTRIDGE OR MOVE THE "SAFETY" FROM THE ON SAFE POSITION UNLESS SHOOTING IS IMMINENT. ALWAYS KEEP THE MUZZLE POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

1 Load a cartridge into the chamber (as explained previously) by loading a cartridge from the magazine or directly to the chamber.

2 Immediately verify that the "safety" is in the on safe position.

3 With a cartridge in the chamber, you need only move the "safety" to the off safe position to make the rifle ready for firing.

4 When ready to fire, move the "safety" into the off safe position, take aim and squeeze the trigger.

5 After a cartridge is fired, cycle the bolt rearward to eject the empty case. If you wish to continue shooting, push the bolt fully forward. This picks up a loaded cartridge from the magazine and chambers it. You may continue to load and fire the rifle in this manner until the magazine is empty.

6 If you are done shooting, leave the bolt to the rear, with the breech in the open position so that you may visually inspect the chamber, bore and magazine to be sure they contain no cartridges.

⚠WARNING

AFTER FIRING, OR WHEN SHOOTING IS NO LONGER IMMINENT, IMMEDIATELY PLACE THE "SAFETY" IN THE ON SAFE POSITION. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

EVEN WITH THE BOLT OPEN AFTER SHOOTING, DO NOT ASSUME THE RIFLE IS UNLOADED. ALWAYS INSPECT THE CHAMBER, BARREL, FEED MECHANISM AND MAGAZINE TO BE CERTAIN THE RIFLE IS COMPLETELY UNLOADED. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

UNLOADING

⚠WARNING

WHEN UNLOADING YOUR RIFLE ALWAYS PLACE THE "SAFETY" IN THE ON SAFE POSITION. KEEP THE MUZZLE POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION AND YOUR FINGERS AWAY FROM THE TRIGGER. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

ALWAYS INSPECT THE CHAMBER, BARREL AND MAGAZINE CAREFULLY AFTER UNLOADING TO BE SURE ALL LIVE CARTRIDGES ARE CLEARED FROM THE FIREARM.

UNLOADING THE RIFLE

1 Open the bolt and eject any cartridge in the chamber. Leave the bolt in the rearward position with the action open.

2 Look into the chamber to verify that it is unloaded.

3 Press the magazine release button rearward and remove the magazine.

4 With the chamber empty and the magazine removed, close the bolt.

5 Strip the cartridges from the magazine as explained below and insert the empty magazine into the magazine well of the rifle.

UNLOADING THE MAGAZINE

1 Press the magazine release button rearward and remove the magazine.

2 Unload the chamber of the rifle as previously explained.

3 Strip the cartridges from the magazine by pushing forward on the rim of the top cartridge and sliding each cartridge out, one at a time.

4 Unload any extra magazines.

MOUNTING A SCOPE

⚠WARNING

BEFORE MOUNTING A SCOPE, SIGHT OR OTHER ACCESSORIES TO YOUR RIFLE, PLACE THE "SAFETY" IN THE ON SAFE POSITION. OPEN THE ACTION AND MAKE CERTAIN YOUR RIFLE IS COMPLETELY UNLOADED. KEEP THE MUZZLE POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

The top of the X-Bolt receiver is drilled and tapped for scope bases. Unlike other centerfire rifles, the X-Bolt utilizes four screws per scope base instead of two for attaching each base to the receiver. From the factory, the scope base holes are fitted with filler screws.

NOTICE! **ALWAYS USE THE CORRECT BASES FOR THIS RIFLE AND THE APPROPRIATE LENGTH SCREWS.**

1 Place your rifle in a gun vise or on a table or other safe/secure location with the top of the receiver upward. Protect the finish with rags or other padding.

2 Remove the bolt as instructed on page 13.

3 You should have a compatible one- or two-piece style base and eight screws of the correct length.

4 Clean all oil, grease or dirt from the receiver top and from the scope base parts.

5 Remove all eight filler screws from the top of the receiver using a very small, thin-bladed gunsmithing-type screwdriver.

6 Pre-position the bases on the receiver top to determine the best orientation of the bases.

7 Insert the screws through the bases and start each screw into its respective hole in the receiver. Do not tighten the screws.

   You must use screws of the appropriate length to ensure proper thread engagement. Once the bases are installed, check inside the receiver to verify that the base mounting screws are not too long and interfering with the operation of the bolt.

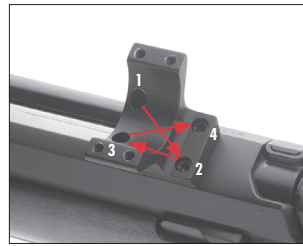
   Many gunsmiths find it helpful to use a drop of serviceable thread locking compound to assure the screws stay tight. Make sure the thread locking compound does not get into the action.

   Be careful to assure that the threads of each screw engage properly in the receiver threads to prevent stripping the threads in the receiver.

8 Tighten the screws, evenly, in the pattern shown in Figure 9. This will allow the screws to be tightened with equal pressure. Tighten the screws snugly, but do not overtighten.

9 Mount your scope rings and scope as outlined in the instructions supplied with your scope rings and/or scope. Always make sure you have the proper eye relief.

FIGURE 9



Tighten the screws incrementally in the pattern shown above.

TRIGGER ADJUSTMENT

⚠WARNING

BEFORE ADJUSTING THE TRIGGER, ALWAYS PLACE THE "SAFETY" IN THE ON SAFE POSITION. KEEP THE MUZZLE POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION AND YOUR FINGERS AWAY FROM THE TRIGGER. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

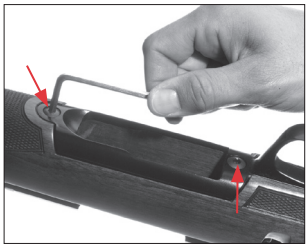
ALWAYS INSPECT THE CHAMBER, BARREL AND MAGAZINE CAREFULLY AFTER UNLOADING TO BE SURE ALL LIVE CARTRIDGES ARE CLEARED FROM THE FIREARM.

The X-Bolt's trigger is pre-set at the factory. The trigger pull weight can be adjusted within a range of approximately 3 to 5 pounds, and is factory pre-set at 4 pounds. Though additional trigger adjustments should be unnecessary, the trigger pull weight can be tuned to your specifications by performing the following procedure:

1 Remove the magazine from the rifle by pressing the magazine release button. Open the bolt and verify the rifle is unloaded.

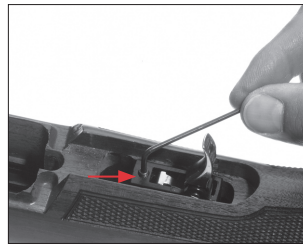
2 Remove the two screws that retain the bottom metal with a 4mm Allen wrench (Figure 10). Lift the bottom metal out of the stock.

FIGURE 10



Remove the two screws and lift the bottom metal from the stock.

FIGURE 11



Adjust the trigger pull using a 2mm Allen wrench.

3 The trigger pull adjustment screw is located just in front of the trigger (Figure 11). To increase the weight of the trigger pull, turn the adjustment screw in a clockwise direction using a 2mm Allen wrench. To decrease the weight of the trigger pull, turn the adjustment screw in a counterclockwise direction. NOTE: If trigger pull is increased too much, the trigger cannot be pulled. Turn the screw counterclockwise until trigger can be pulled.

4 Trigger pull can be measured, with the rifle unloaded and the bolt closed, using a very accurate spring scale or a commercially available set of trigger pull measuring weights. Most gunsmiths can also measure trigger pull for you.

5 When finished making the adjustment, replace the trigger guard back in the stock and reinstall the trigger guard screws snugly.

CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE SUGGESTIONS

NOTICE! PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION BEFORE CLEANING YOUR FIREARM.

CLEANING PARTS WITH SPECIAL FINISHES

Be especially careful when cleaning guns with camouflage, Dura-Touch® Armor Coating and other special finishes. Always prevent these

surfaces from coming in contact with cleaning solvents, barrel scrubbers and other strong chemicals. It is preferable to clean these surfaces with a light gun oil containing no solvents, or with a damp cloth and mild dish soap (be sure to keep water out of the action). When cleaning your firearm's bore and action, protect the external finishes from any contact with chemicals used. Also, avoid any contact between external finishes and other strong chemicals like those found in DEET-containing insect repellents, sunscreens, etc. Damage to camouflage, Dura-Touch and other finishes caused by chemicals is irreversible and not repairable.

⚠WARNING

BEFORE PERFORMING CLEANING PROCEDURES, PLACE THE "SAFETY" IN THE ON SAFE POSITION. OPEN THE ACTION AND MAKE CERTAIN YOUR RIFLE IS COMPLETELY UNLOADED. KEEP THE MUZZLE POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

⚠WARNING

WEAR EYE PROTECTION WHEN DISASSEMBLING AND CLEANING YOUR RIFLE TO PREVENT THE POSSIBILITY OF SPRINGS, SPRING-TENSIONED PARTS, SOLVENTS OR OTHER AGENTS FROM CONTACTING YOUR EYES, RESULTING IN INJURY.

⚠WARNING

KEEP ALL AMMUNITION AWAY FROM THE CLEANING AREA. NEVER TEST THE MECHANICAL FUNCTION OF YOUR RIFLE WITH LIVE AMMUNITION. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

CLEANING PROCEDURES

Your X-Bolt rifle will function better and more reliably over a longer period of time if it is properly maintained and kept clean. Clean your firearm after every day of shooting, and more often if it becomes

excessively dirty. A minimum cleaning includes wiping down the firearm and oiling key parts. Regular maintenance will also include cleaning the barrel.

If you encounter a function problem be sure to give your firearm a thorough cleaning to see if it solves the problem before seeking the services of a Browning Recommended Service Center or our Service Facility in Arnold, Missouri, or a qualified gunsmith.

1 Remove the bolt as explained previously.

2 Inspect the chamber and bore for powder fouling. A normal amount of powder residue can be expected and is not serious. It can usually be removed with a patch saturated with nitro solvent. Clean the bore using an appropriate rifle cleaning rod with a tip and patch of the correct caliber to provide a snug fit in the bore. Insert the rod and patch into the barrel at the breech end and run it back and forth several times. Care should be exercised to ensure that the cleaning rod does not strike the crown of the muzzle, as damage to this area can affect the accuracy of your rifle. If, or when, fouling should become heavy, it can be removed with a brass bore brush. Dip or spray the brush with nitro solvent and scrub the chamber and bore until the fouling is removed. To prevent brass bristles from breaking off, the brush should be pushed completely through the barrel before being withdrawn.

   To maintain the utmost accuracy of your rifle it is recommended you clean the bore with a copper solvent. Modern bullet jackets are made mainly of copper. Residues from copper bullet jackets stick to the barrel and require more frequent cleaning. Magnum calibers will require more frequent inspection and cleaning. Swab the bore of your rifle with a good copper solvent using the manufacturer's recommended procedure.

   Alternately, the Browning Barrel Weasel™ makes cleaning the bore of your firearm fast and easy. Be sure to follow all instructions when using any product to clean your firearm.

3 After all fouling has been removed, the chamber and bore should be wiped dry. When the bore is dry, pass a slightly oiled patch through it for preservation. A fine, light gun oil is recommended.

4 Inspect the barrel and chamber to be certain no patches have inadvertently been left in them. Remove any that remain.

5 Use a small brush or rag to remove dirt or other foreign matter from inside the receiver and other parts of the action. Lightly lubricate all moving parts with a high-quality, light gun oil. Use oil sparingly, a very light film is sufficient. A fine, light gun oil is ideally suited for this purpose.

NOTICE! **DO NOT POUR LARGE QUANTITIES OF OIL INTO THE RECEIVER OR OTHER PARTS. IT CAN DRAIN DOWN TO THE WOOD AND SOFTEN IT, CAUSING PERMANENT DAMAGE AND LOOSENING OF THE STOCK.**

6 Wipe all exposed metal surfaces with a lightly oiled cloth making certain that all finger marks are removed. Finger marks provide a place where moisture can accumulate. The metal of the gun should receive a light film of oil any time the rifle has been exposed to weather or handling.

7 Wood surfaces can also be wiped with a quality, lightweight gun oil or they can be polished with any quality furniture wax (but not both).

CLEANING THE MAGAZINE

It is not recommended that the X-Bolt magazine be disassembled. Frequently inspect magazines to determine the need for cleaning as lubricant and dirt will gradually collect in the mechanism. Normally, the magazine should be cleaned after firing 500 to 1000 cartridges.

NOTICE! **DO NOT TAMPER WITH THE ASSEMBLY SCREW ON THE REAR OF THE MAGAZINE. DOING SO WILL RENDER THE MAGAZINE INOPERATIVE.**

1 Clean the magazine by spraying it with a gun cleaning solvent that will not adversely affect the polymer magazine or corrode the metal components. Spray the magazine with this solvent, both inside and out, to loosen debris.

2 Place your finger over the loading port and shake it vigorously (with the loading port away from you) to remove solvent and residue from the magazine.

3 Use compressed air to dry the magazine or allow it to air dry.

NOTICE! **DO NOT TAKE YOUR FIREARM APART BEYOND WHAT IS EXPLAINED IN THIS OWNER'S MANUAL. THIS IS A SPECIALIZED, FINELY FITTED MECHANISM; ANY ATTEMPT TO DISASSEMBLE THE INNER MECHANISM MAY MAR IT FOR LIFE. IT IS UNNECESSARY, AND MAY DO DAMAGE TO THE INNER MECHANISM, TO DISASSEMBLE IT FOR ROUTINE CLEANING AND OILING. OF COURSE, MISFORTUNES (SUCH AS DROPPING YOUR GUN IN WATER) REQUIRE APPROPRIATE ATTENTION, AND IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES WE RECOMMEND YOU IMMEDIATELY TAKE YOUR FIREARM TO A QUALIFIED GUNSMITH.**

SERVICE OR REPAIR

If your firearm should require service or repairs, we suggest you first contact a local recommended Browning Firearms Service Center. To locate a service center visit browning.com, contact our customer service department or your Browning firearms dealer for the address of the Service Center nearest you. Otherwise, you may send your firearm directly to our service department in Arnold, Missouri.

Parts listings, Firearm Service Center lists, service procedures, service/repair form and general product information are also found on the internet at: browning.com. For technical questions about your firearm or service, contact:

United States customers contact:
Browning Firearm Status and Technical Service
One Browning Place
Arnold, MO 63010-9406
Phone: (800) 322-4626

Canadian customers contact:
Browning Canada Sports Ltd/Ltée
5583 Chemin St-François
St-Laurent, Quebec H4S 1W6
Phone: (514) 333-7261

When returning your firearm for servicing, you must do the following:

1 Be sure it is completely unloaded.

2 Remove the scope or other optics.

3 Package it securely in a cardboard container.

4 When sending your firearm, enclose the service/repair form available at browning.com or a letter that clearly describes the trouble experienced, the ammunition used and the repairs desired. Also include your name and a daytime phone number where you can be reached.

5 If convenient, send a copy of the service/repair form or letter to us separately.

6 Never return ammunition with your firearm. It is against postal and most commerce regulations.

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BROWNING US: Morgan, Utah 84050-9326
BROWNING CANADA: Browning Canada Sports Ltd/Ltée, St-Laurent, Quebec H4S 1W6
BROWNING INTL: Parc Industriel des Hauts-Sarts, B-4040 Herstal, Belgium

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